

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 576

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Veterans Honor Guard.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the Tennessee General Assembly recognize those estimable organizations whose purpose is to honor those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces, both past and present, who have gone on to their great reward; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Honor Guard is one such noteworthy association, which provides full military honors at the funerals of fallen heroes; and

WHEREAS, conceived by the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 741 from Cookeville in 1996, the Veterans Honor Guard has graciously provided its services at 1,458 funerals since its inception; and

WHEREAS, dressed in their polished uniforms of white and black, these patriotic gentlemen stand at attention for great lengths at a time, whether it be sweltering or snowy, on a sunny day or in a torrential downpour, and never charge a dime for their services; and

WHEREAS, between eight and twelve members attend each military service, including, a Commander, a Bugler to play "Taps," two flag folders, and seven riflemen, who fire the twenty-one gun salute; and

WHEREAS, open to any serviceman or woman who has been honorably discharged from their branch of service, the Veterans Honor Guard is comprised of Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps veterans who served with courage and conviction in World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam Conflict, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, this esteemed volunteer organization is currently comprised of eighteen members, ranging in age from sixty-five to eighty-three; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Honor Guard is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and it should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we salute the members of the Veterans Honor Guard for their stalwart commitment to providing appropriate funeral honors for our nation's heroes, applaud their singular patriotism, and extend to them our sincerest gratitude for their selfless service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.